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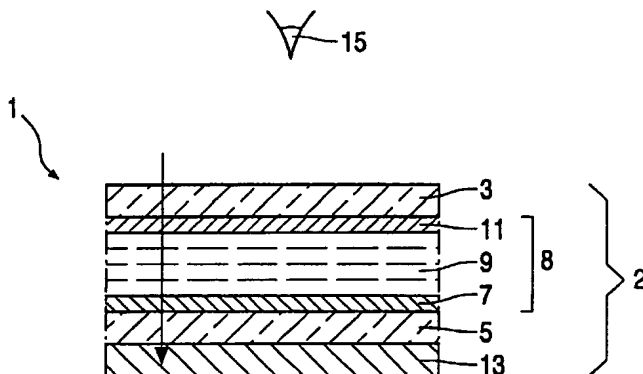
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V. [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): KARMAN, Gerardus, P. [NL/NL]; Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL). DOORNKAMP, Ciska [NL/NL]; Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).
- (74) Agent: TOL, Arie, J., W.; Internationaal Octrooibureau B.V., Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).
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(54) Title: COMBINATION OF CHOLESTERIC LAYER AND ALIGNMENT LAYER

WO 03/060604 A1



(57) Abstract: A cholesteric layer switchable between a wavelength-selectively reflective state and a transmissive state is in direct contact with a homeotropic orientation layer. In the reflective state the layer is cholesterically ordered in helices characterized by a helical direction and a helical pitch. The homeotropic layer broadens the distribution of helical axis directions thus rendering the light reflected in the reflective state more diffuse and rendering the color reflected by the cholesteric layer less dependent on viewing angle. Alternatively, the cholesteric layer may be a polymerized layer.